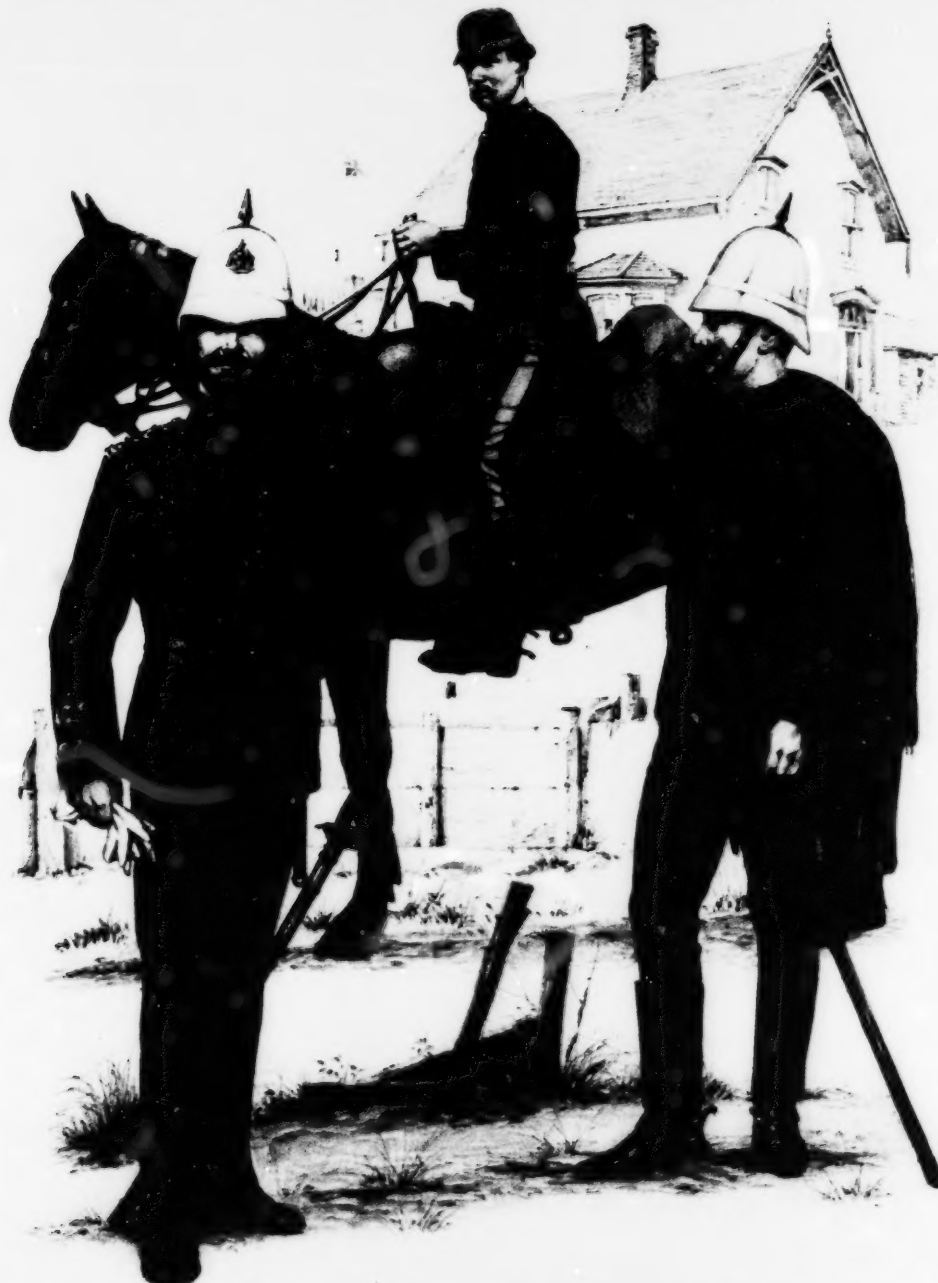


FORT BATTLEFORD

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK



MANAGEMENT PLAN



Environnement
Canada

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Canada

Canadian Parks
Service

Service canadien
des parcs





FORT BATTLEFORD NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

MANAGEMENT PLAN

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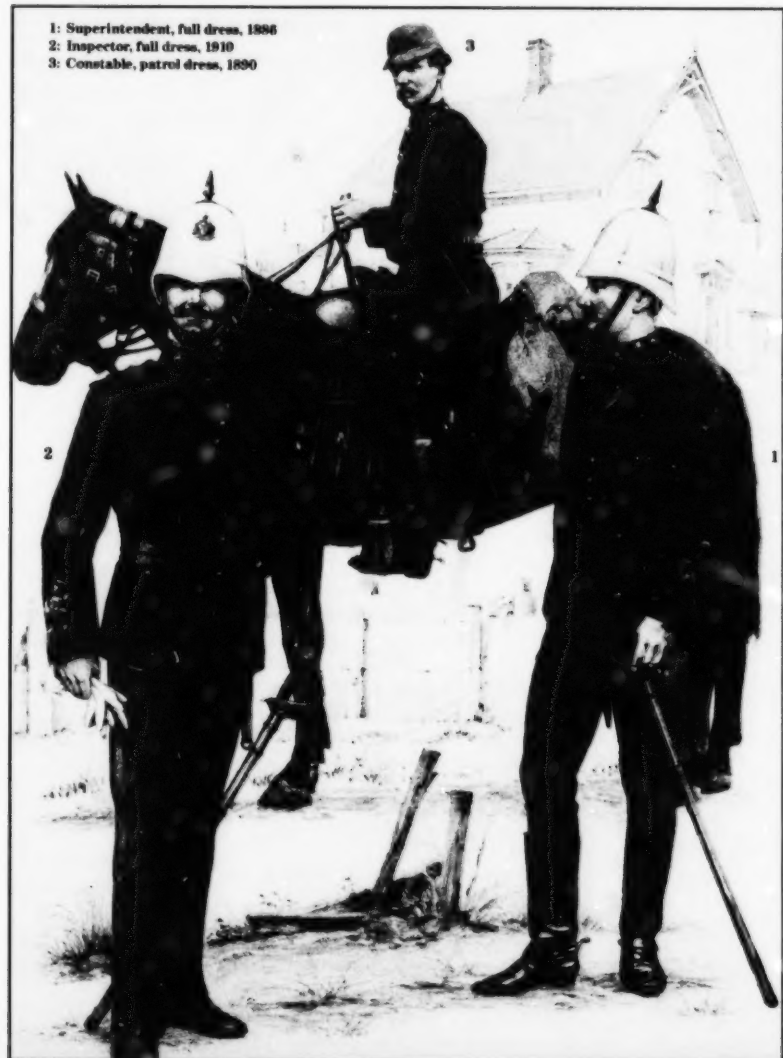
FORT BATTLEFORD NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Cover: Colour plate by Richard Hook, from *The Royal Canadian Mounted Police 1873-1987*. David Ross and Robin May.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Fort Battleford National Historic Park is one of the oldest historic parks in the national system. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada declared Fort Battleford to be a site of national historic importance in 1923, and publicly recognized it with a cairn. In July 1951, Fort Battleford's importance in Canadian history was further recognized when it officially opened as a national historic park.

It is situated in an urban setting on the Yellowhead Highway, a major trans-Canada route. It enjoys a modest, but steady level of visitation. To date, few visitors choose the park as a destination point, preferring rather to visit the park as a part of their holidays or when visiting friends and relatives in the area.

Programmes and services at the park have evolved through the years, but have never undergone major development work. Consequently, the extant historic resources are in need of major repair. The interpretive programme has become outdated and does not fully address the approved themes for the park. It was the need to deal with commemoration and protection issues which led to the beginning of a management planning exercise in 1985.

1.2 Management Plan

Throughout the management planning programme, the planning team was aware of the park's many shortfalls, but was equally cognizant of the potential of Fort Battleford.

Well located on a major route in a region rich with historic resources, an upgraded Fort Battleford can become a major destination point for visitors to the area. The possibilities for involving the local community and a variety of special interest groups and government agencies are considerable. The success of the park and the commemoration of its resources will depend upon the level of development and change as well as improvements undertaken at the park.

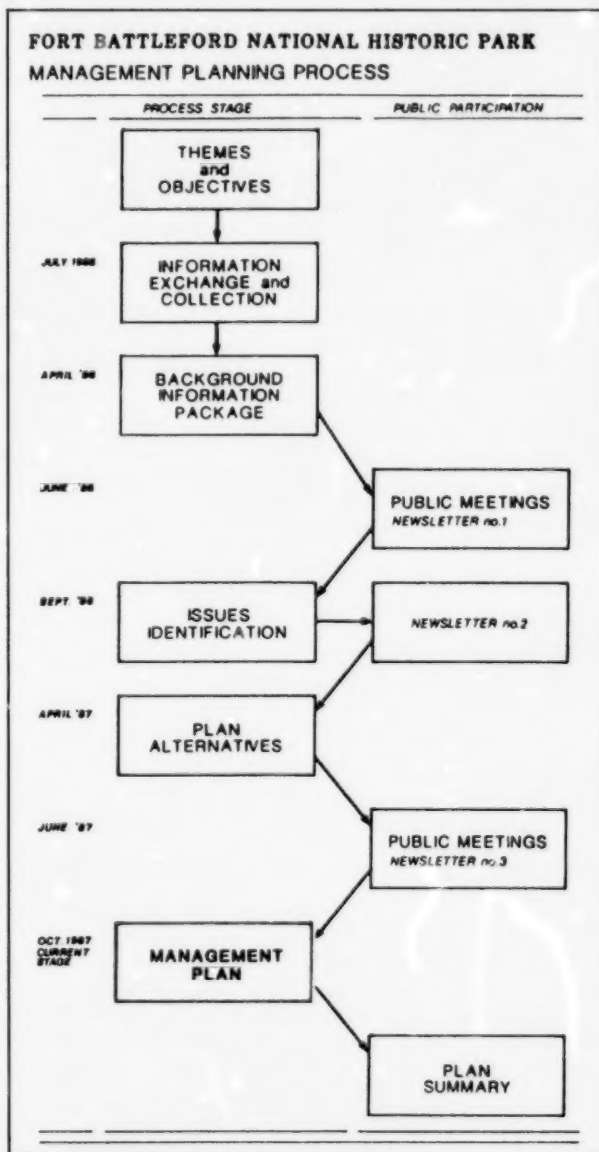
1.3 Canadian Parks Service Policy

The policy of the Canadian Parks Service defines certain guiding principles for the establishment, development and operation of national historic parks in Canada.

These principles, which are the underlying premise for the design of this plan and the proposed development of Fort Battleford, are consistent with the basic objectives of all national historic parks, as stated in Parks' policy:

To protect for all time historic resources at places associated with persons, places and events of national historic significance in a system of national historic parks and to encourage public understanding of this historical heritage so as to leave it unimpaired for future generations.

The management plan for Fort Battleford followed an established process (Figure 1). The approved Themes and Objectives and Parks' policy provided the framework for the planning team's deliberations.





2.0 PARK CONTEXT

2.1 Historical Context

From its creation in 1873 by the Parliament of Canada, the North West Mounted Police (NWMP, now RCMP) has played a prominent role in the evolution of western Canada. One of the most significant NWMP posts was Fort Battleford, established in 1876 at a strategic location near the confluence of the Battle and North Saskatchewan rivers.

With the designation of Battleford as Territorial Capital, the NWMP assumed responsibility for the protection of public officials, in addition to their police duties. But the key role of Fort Battleford in these early years was to oversee the large Cree nation inhabiting the region. Contact between the NWMP and the Indians was continuous in the late nineteenth century, beginning with the police presence at the Treaty #6 negotiations and signings in 1876.

Despite the police presence, Indian grievances related to the reserve system and government inaction led to discontent, and ultimately, the 1885 resistance. During the height of the conflict, the local white population took refuge within the Fort Battleford stockade. Thirty miles west of Fort Battleford, Poundmaker's Cree met the Canadian military force at the Battle of Cut Knife Hill. For the Indian and Métis community, the 1885 resistance was a traumatic experience. Not only did eight Indians hang in a mass public hanging, but the prominent Indian leaders, Poundmaker and Big Bear, were sent to prison.

After 1885, life gradually resumed a more even keel at Fort Battleford. Contact between the police and Cree continued. The police force settled into community life, forging strong social and economic bonds with the adjacent town of Battleford. The police performed plays, concerts and hosted dances and regular sports competitions. The fort itself assumed a more permanent appearance with the construction of several major structures designed by architects of the Department of Public Works, who drew upon popular architectural trends in eastern Canada. By the turn of the century the post had entered an era of graceful decline, which lasted until Fort Battleford was closed in 1924.

In 1923, the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recommended Fort Battleford as a national historic site. It was declared to be "of national historic significance", but no further definition was given to its specific historical context in Canada's history. The current development of themes and objectives was the first step in the planning exercise to provide a more detailed framework for on-site commemoration.

Three themes were developed and approved. Theme priority was based upon its historical significance and not upon the existence of representative physical resources. The themes in order of priority are:

1. Native People, Territorial Administration and Law Enforcement on the Northern Plains;

2. Social and Economic Life at Fort Battleford;
3. Late Victorian Building in western Canada.

2.1.1 First Theme

The primary theme for Fort Battleford, "Native People, Territorial Administration and Law Enforcement on the Northern Plains," can be divided into four sub-themes. These are:

1. The history of the area prior to the establishment of the fort and the arrival of the police force. This focuses more specifically on the life of the Indian and Métis people of the area;
2. The role of the NWMP as agents of the National Policy including their participation in the Treaty signing process and government policy along with their traditional function as law and regulation enforcers;
3. The regional role of the NWMP as they patrolled the local towns, the eight surrounding reserves as well as the town of Battleford. The focus here is on police relations with the nearby white, Indian and Métis peoples;
4. The NWMP participation in the events during the 1885 uprising is the most dramatic event in the history of the fort.

2.1.2 Second Theme

The secondary theme, "Social and Economic Life at Fort Battleford," is identified to represent the daily life of the police both at the fort and in the region. Special emphasis will be placed on presenting the lifestyle of the officers as well as the regulars or enlisted men. This theme is designed to draw attention to the lively social and cultural life brought to the West by the police as well as the economic benefits generated by the NWMP presence for the local and regional community.

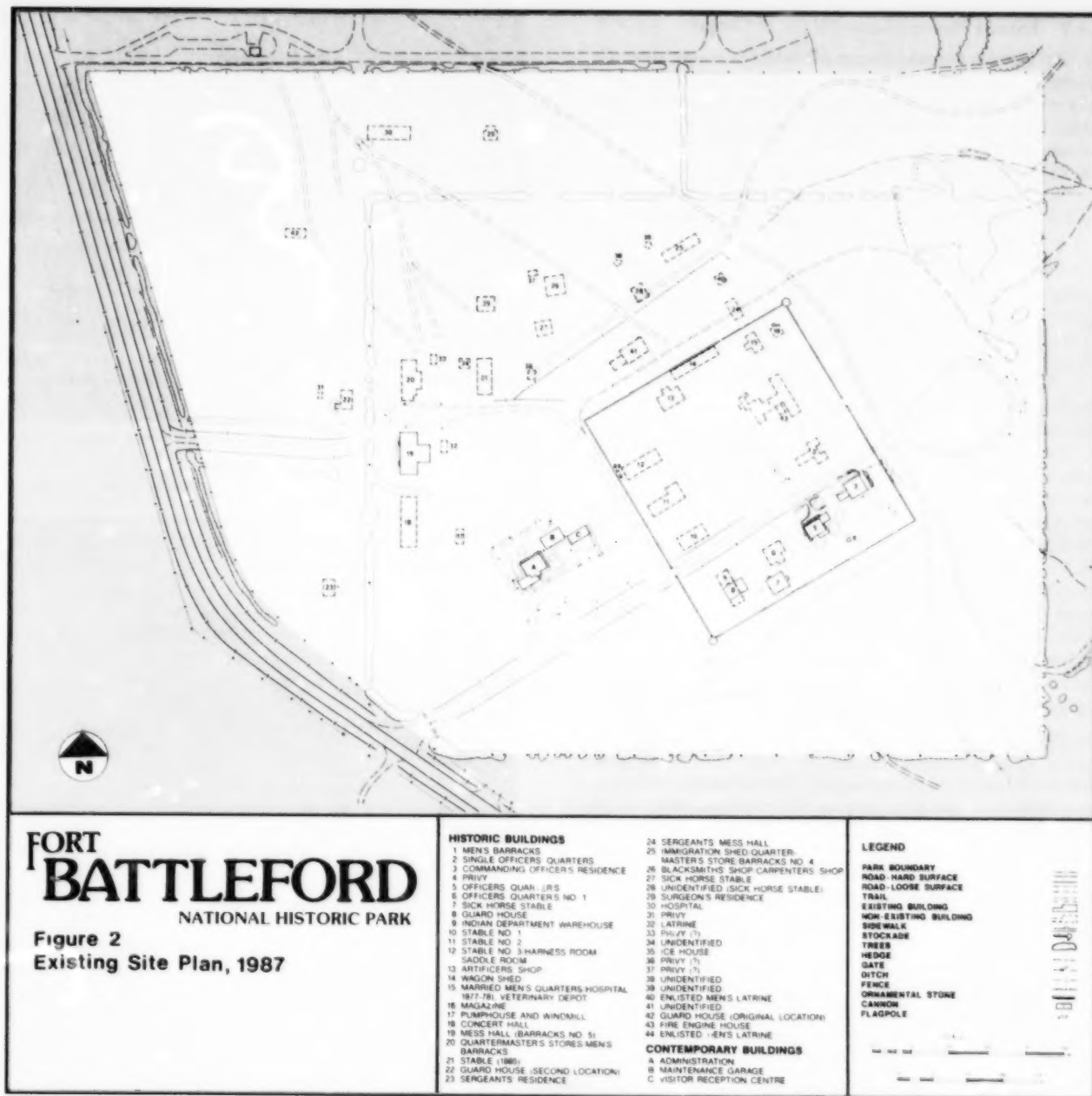
2.1.3 Third Theme

The third theme, "Late Victorian Building in Western Canada," draws specific attention to the significant material culture resources represented by the architecture of the buildings. Most importantly, these buildings are among the oldest surviving structures built to house federal institutions on the Canadian prairies. The buildings reflect a national pattern of federal design, influenced by the Gothic Revival and Second Empire styles.

2.1.4 Period of Commemoration

Within the stockade the period of commemoration will focus on 1885. The buildings will be preserved and furnished to that date. The interpretive programme will also concentrate on commemoration of 1885.

Outside the stockade the programme will interpret the 1885-90s period, with each building interpreted to a specific date (date of construction).



2.2 Plan Objectives

The Themes and Objectives for Fort Battleford National Historic Park were approved in April 1986 and presented to the public in June 1986. They provide the historical rationale in a national context for the development and operation of the park and set goals for achievement. They also outline appropriate policies and standards for the conservation, commemoration and interpretation of the historic park's resources. The objectives for Fort Battleford included: regional integration, historic resource protection, visitor services and activities, and operational considerations.

2.3 Description of Resources

2.3.1 Site Plan

Fort Battleford National Historic Park is 22.8 hectares in size. The historic park contains several important extant historic structures, numerous archaeological resources and a small collection of contemporary buildings and equipment which are used in the administration and operation of the park. Figure 2 shows the park as it currently exists.

2.3.2 Extant Resources

The fort was constructed over a period of 30 years, with the majority of buildings being erected in the 1880-90 period. Originally concentrated around the parade ground and encompassed by a stockade, the police post eventually evolved into a more traditional grid-line layout. Five original buildings remain from the 1876-1900 period.

2.3.2.1 Commanding Officer's Residence (Figure 3)

This is the oldest building in the park and was constructed to house the senior officer at the post. While construction of the Commanding Officer's Residence began in 1876, it was not completed until 1877 due to shortages of lumber. The building is a good example of domestic architecture in the Gothic Revival style, which was popular throughout North America in the late nineteenth century. Features of this style include bargeboards, pinnacles, pendants and a high pitched roof. The foundation was described as having been built of stone masonry. The log construction was "Red River" style; the exterior covered by boards and finished with plaster. A number of appendages were added to the house over the years. These included porches over exterior doors, a summer kitchen, and wood and coal storage sheds. The interior of the house is laid out much like some other Victorian structures of the period. The official or public part of the house on the main floor contained the parlour and dining areas, while the private sections of the house - the bedrooms and quiet sitting areas - were upstairs.

2.3.2.2 Officers' Quarters (Figure 4)

The Officers' Quarters, built between 1884 and 1886, was used mainly as an unmarried officers' residence and as an office where daily orders were dispatched. Architecturally, the building reflected a style popular in mid-Victorian Canada. The use of the mansard roof reflects the influence of the Second Empire style which was the dominant stylistic influence in federal architecture in the 1870s and early 1880s. When not enough sawn lumber was available to construct the building by balloon framing, the walls were built with hand hewn logs instead. A number of additions were made to this building over the years. They include a large "orderly room" section that was added to the rear of the building, a room extension to the east of the quarters and porches over all of the main entrances. Finally, major changes to the foundation of the building were completed in the 1970s. "As found" drawings show there were many alterations made to the interior of the quarters over the years.

2.3.2.3 Mess Hall (Barracks #5) (Figure 5)

The Mess Hall, now known as "Barracks #5", is the sole remaining structure of the three buildings constructed in a row in the mid-1880s. It stood between the Concert Hall and Men's Barracks, and served the function of a mess hall in the early years. Its construction differs somewhat from its two sister buildings in that it has a rather major extension built onto the eastern elevation. As a balloon frame, clapboarded building, it was similar in construction to the neighbouring buildings. It has a stone foundation and, as with many of the buildings of the fort, it eventually had porches built over all the main entrances.



Figure 3 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1885

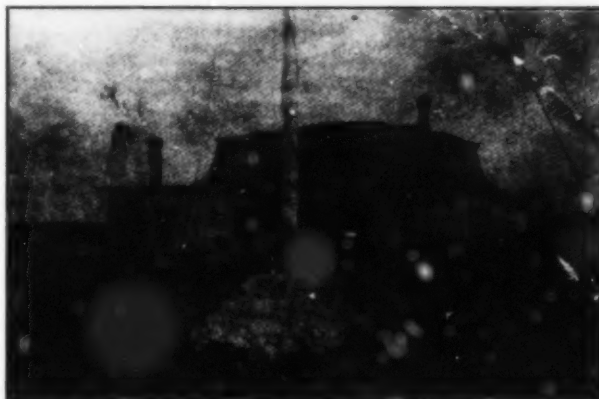


Figure 4 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1890



Figure 5 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1986

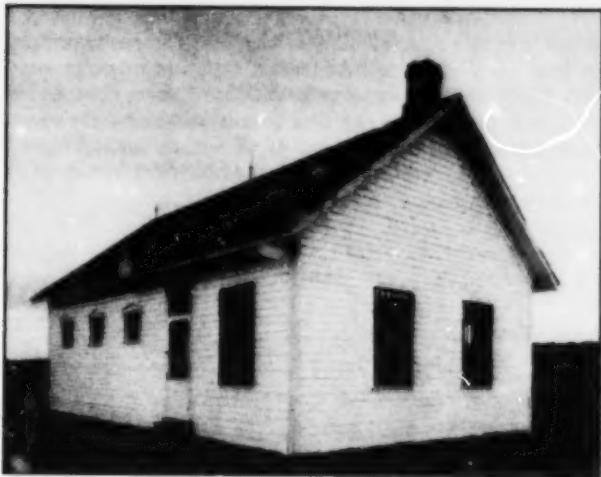


Figure 6 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1987



Figure 7 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1898



Figure 8 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1885

2.3.2.4 Guard House (Figure 6)

Construction of the Guard House took place during 1887-88. Originally located in the northwest quadrant of the park, the Guard House has been moved twice. In 1904 it was relocated to the area northwest of the Mess Hall, as the original location was considered too isolated. The Guard House was moved again in the 1940s under the auspices of the provincial government. The present Guard House was the first building constructed at Fort Battleford to serve this function. Prior to its construction, areas of a number of buildings were used to keep prisoners incarcerated. Utilitarian in design and materials, there are no unique architectural features to the building. The Guard House appears to have been built originally on a stone foundation, and is of balloon frame construction, sided with clapboards. There were porches over the main doors as well as a fenced area built of boards at the rear, which was likely marked off to serve as an exercise area.

2.3.2.5 Sick Horse Stable (Figure 7)

The Sick Horse Stable, built in 1898, served an important function at a mounted police post - the isolation of ill animals. The design of the building is in keeping with the rest of the post's structures, a frame building covered with lath and plaster of a modest, utilitarian design. One quite handsome and eclectic feature, which has since disappeared, was the "pagoda" style cupola serving the very mundane but necessary role of ventilation. This design feature added an element of whimsy to the building. As with the Guard House, the Sick Horse Stable was moved from outside the stockade area to the inside during the 1940s consolidation of remaining resources.

2.3.2.6 Stockade (Figure 8)

A number of stockades were constructed at Fort Battleford. Those structures were intended to keep people from wandering over police property, as well as to serve a defensive purpose. The original 1879-80 stockade was said to have been 10 feet high and built of tamarack. Other reports claim the stockade was built of spruce or poplar. The logs of the original stockade were described as being pointed, but in 1882 they were cut off flat and boards were nailed along the top in order to hold the fence together.

Bastions were built at opposite corners of the stockade. There were also two gates on the original stockade opening to the east and west. By 1886, the stockade had fallen into disrepair and a new one was planned but never built. When a large portion of the stockade was blown down by the wind in 1890 it was not replaced until the 1940s. In the 1960s it was rebuilt by the Historic Parks and Sites branch. Since it was constructed on designs based on the stockade at the fur trade post of Fort Langley, its authenticity remains suspect.

2.3.3 Non-Extant Resources

Fort Battleford contained a wide range of buildings which no longer exist. Many of these buildings were of modest construction and were always considered to be of a temporary nature. Included were stables, storage sheds and latrines. Others were constructed in a more substantial "permanent" fashion. The Barracks #4, Surgeon's Residence, Concert Hall, Hospital and 1886 stables were among these buildings.

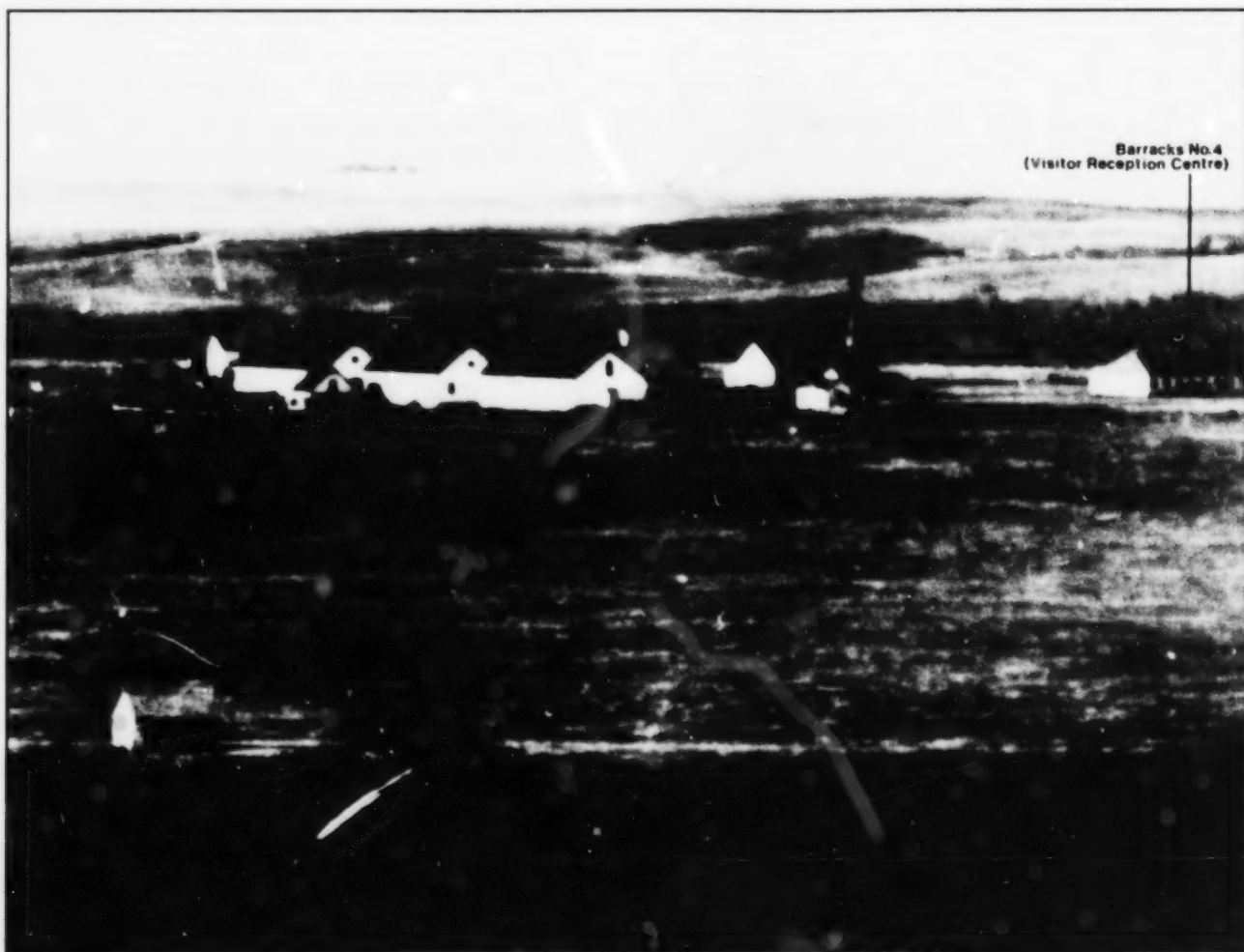


Figure 9 Provincial Archives of Alberta, 1904

2.3.3.1 Barracks #4 (also known as Immigration Shed/ Quartermaster's Store) (Figure 9)

Constructed in the 1880s as a barracks, this building was used as a quartermaster's store and later as an "immigrant shed", providing shelter to people awaiting access to their land. Barracks #4 was approximately 20 feet by 80 feet, probably of log construction. Similar to most buildings at the post, it was constructed quickly, was utilitarian in design and did not have a long life expectancy.

2.3.3.2 Concert Hall (Figure 10)

Construction of the Concert Hall, Mess Hall and Men's Barracks began in 1886. This shared date of construction was reflected in the design and scale of the buildings and in the similar use of materials. The building functioned as a drill hall, court house, library and recreational centre. It served as the forum for plays, concerts and festive events, and served as the social and cultural centre for the Battleford community.

2.3.3.3 Landscape Features

The landscape at Fort Battleford retains many features dating to the period of commemoration (1885). The layout of the buildings, fence and treelines, ground depressions of non-extant structures, former sports fields and historic trails all provide potential elements for the interpretation of the site's history.

2.4 Regional Context

Fort Battleford National Historic Park is adjacent to the town of Battleford, Saskatchewan, 139 km northwest of Saskatoon (Figure 11). The Battlefords serve as the junction of several major highways including numbers 4, 29, 40 and 16, the Yellowhead Route. The park is accessible from only one direction, travelling south from the town of Battleford along the continuation of Central Avenue.

2.4.1 Regional Economy and Labour Force

The 1985 population for the Battlefords was approximately

18,800 with 8,000 in the labour force. The population of both communities has been increasing at a steady rate of 0.2% a year. Economic activity in Battleford is largely a function of the oil and gas and agricultural industries. North Battleford's major economic activities include food processing, construction and heavy oil related services. There is also a strong retail trade and a diversified manufacturing base.

As a major centre in northwestern Saskatchewan, which includes Lloydminster, the Battlefords and Saskatoon, the Battlefords are an important tourism activity staging and marketing node. A major interprovincial highway, the Yellowhead Route, traverses the communities and is an important route for tourist travel.

There are nine Indian bands located in the North Battleford District with a registered population of 7,927. Indian history is not well commemorated in the area. The Indian community is generally receptive to tourism development in the region. Several proposals for the development of Indian themed resources have been recently developed. The emphasis has been on projects with a strong economic development focus to create employment.

2.4.2 Adjacent Land Use

Fort Battleford National Historic Park is bordered on the north by the Eiling Kramer Campground, which opened as a provincially-owned facility. Ownership of the property was transferred to the Town of Battleford in May 1987. A provision of the transfer agreement states that the land must be used

as a campground for a period of five years. The stated intention of the town is to develop the land eventually for residential purposes. The campground facility may be relocated, possibly to the south side of the park. The town also intends to proceed with residential development in the area immediately west of the park. The first phase would result in housing as far south as the property west of the Mess Hall.

There is currently no protective mechanism in place to ensure that a view plane will be maintained between Fort Battleford and Government House. Discussions will occur between the town, the province and the park to determine the extent of protection which might be guaranteed. It is the position of the Canadian Parks Service that development in the view plane be restricted by designating it municipal green space and zoning it for recreational purposes.

2.4.3 Income and Employment Impacts

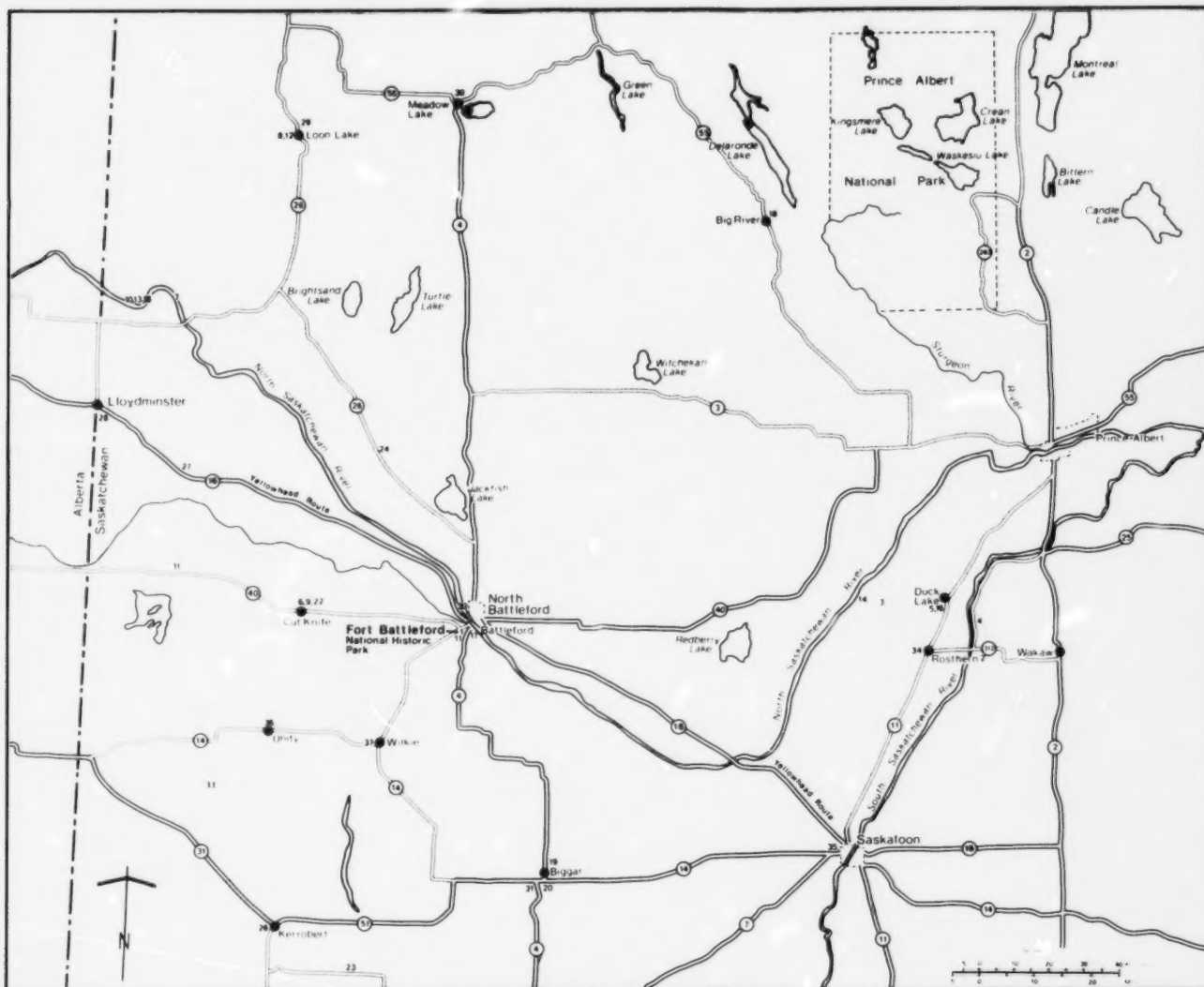
Canadian Parks Service expenditures on salaries and wages in the Battlefords are not expected to increase substantially. Short term employment benefits may result from construction and restoration work that might be contracted out, a portion of which will be awarded to private contracting firms.

2.4.4 Visitor Use and Trends

Fort Battleford currently attracts in the range of 25,000 visitors annually, more than half of which are Saskatchewan residents. According to a visitor survey conducted at the park in 1985, the majority of visitors come to the park because of its



Figure 10 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1910



FORT BATTLEFORD

NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Federal

- 1 Fort Battleford National Historic Park
- 2 Battle of Fish Creek
- 3 Treaty No. 6
- 4 Batoche National Historic Park
- 5 Duck Lake Battlefield
- 6 Cut Knife Battlefield
- 7 Frenchman's Butte
- 8 Steele Narrows
- 9 Poundmaker Cut Knife Hill
- 10 Fort Pitt
- 11 Seat of the Territorial Government, Battleford

Provincial

- 12 Steele Narrows Historic Park
- 13 Fort Pitt Historic Park
- 14 Fort Carlton Historic Park
- 15 Frenchman's Butte Historic Park

Regional Historic Resources

Museums

- 16 Duck Lake Historical Museum
- 17 Fred Light Museum
- 18 Big River Memorial Museum
- 19 Biggar Museum and Gallery
- 20 Homestead Museum
- 21 Kesser's Western Relics Museum
- 22 Clayton McLain Memorial Museum
- 23 Dodsland and District Museum
- 24 Washburn Museum
- 25 Goodson Historical Museum
- 26 Kerrobert and District Museum
- 27 Lashburn Centennial Museum
- 28 Barr Colony Antique Museum
- 29 Big Bear's Trail Museum
- 30 Meadow Lake Museum
- 31 Manito Pioneer's Museum
- 32 Western Development Museum, North Battleford
- 33 St. Joseph's Colony Museum and Shrine
- 34 Saskatchewan Valley Heritage Museum
- 35 Western Development Museum, Saskatoon
- 36 Unity and District Heritage Museum
- 37 Wilkie Museum

Figure 11 Regional Resources

historical significance. A smaller number visit primarily for entertainment or simply as something to do. While the survey reveals that visitors are generally quite satisfied with their visit to Fort Battleford, the majority of visitors consider the addition of more buildings in the stockade as the single most important improvement required.

Nearly half of the park's current market represents return or repeat visitors, which suggests that the park may not be effectively attracting the substantial volume of tourism-related travel along the Yellowhead Route. In fact, only a very small percentage of park visitors reported that they were travelling this route.

Children under the age of 15 and seniors are the two largest visitor segments at Fort Battleford. The visitor survey recorded that 30% of park visitors are less than 15 years old, most of whom arrive with family members. Visiting school groups in the spring and fall make this age segment even more prominent. Seniors, on the other hand, tend to join bus tours or travel together in organized groups. This age segment in the Canadian population is expected to increase steadily in numbers in the next decade.

Analysis of the regional visitor market indicates that with appropriate park development and marketing, Fort Battleford annual visitation could double. Saskatchewan's northwest tourist region receives approximately 923,000 person trips annually. Provincial surveys indicate that 287,000 of the region's visitors are potential historic site visitors. Currently Fort Battleford attracts 25,000 visitors annually, which is almost 9% of the potential regional historic site visitor market. Previous studies indicate that Fort Battleford has the potential to attract 15% to 20% of the regional market, which is 40,000 to 55,000 visitors annually.

2.4.5 Potential Fee Revenue

It is the policy of the Canadian Parks Service to introduce an entrance fee once an acceptable level of operations and development has been achieved. At that time, the specific charge will be determined by a national fee structure.

2.5 Plan Alternatives

The management plan alternatives were conceived to provide Parks Service managers and the public with a range of options which could direct the future management and development of Fort Battleford National Historic Park. Three plan alternatives were developed by the planning team: one maintaining the status quo, one focusing on enhanced visitor services and one emphasizing enhanced commemoration. These options represented the end result of the research, the first round of public meetings, consultation with municipal, provincial and federal agencies, and the planning team's deliberations on the full range of issues associated with the park.

Regardless of which alternative or which mix of alternative components would become the final management plan, it was determined that the park's future development and operation would emphasize additional marketing and co-operative approaches with other agencies, interest groups and the public. The Canadian Parks Service presented the alternatives at a

series of public meetings in June 1987 and through a widely distributed public newsletter.

As well as its public presentation, the Canadian Parks Service submits its plan alternatives to an assessment by different disciplines within the department as part of the Environmental Assessment and Review Process. With respect to the Fort Battleford Management Plan, evaluation reports were prepared for the plan alternatives by Socio-Economic Services and Natural Resource Conservation, Prairie and Northern Region. Copies of these reports are available upon request from Management Planning, Prairie and Northern Region.



3.0 PLAN ELEMENTS

3.1 Introduction

The following section will define the Canadian Parks Service's approach to the protection and commemoration of Fort Battleford National Historic Park. The specific plan proposals will then be followed by the plan implementation framework. The planning team recommends that implementation occur over a ten year period, with the initial emphasis placed on a re-orientation of the park entrance and associated administrative and operational quarters, together with an enhancement of the visitor experience. To meet public expectation, expressed during the public participation programme, emphasis will be given to more frequent and varied activities, site infill and visitor opportunities to participate actively at the park.

The goal of the Canadian Parks Service for Fort Battleford is its development as the nucleus of a co-operative venture to enhance and expand the current park and its programmes. Fort Battleford will take the lead in initiating and co-ordinating regional efforts at marketing, programming and public awareness of historical resources.

A summary of the plan proposals is provided by Figure 12.

3.2 Historic Resource Conservation Proposals

The varied state of the park's historic resources and the fact that several structures are no longer standing demands a variety of treatments. The specific conservation approach will depend on the commemorative or adaptive use proposed for the resource combined with the historic documentation available.

For the purpose of this document, the following apply:

Preservation: Consolidating and maintaining the existing form, material and integrity of historic resources.

Interim Protection: Processes of a temporary nature such as bracing or mothballing in response to an emergency situation or while awaiting further development. The principal criteria are non-destructive activity, reversibility and reduction of deterioration.

Stabilization: A programme of temporary or permanent upgrading to ensure the stability and security of the asset and to reduce maintenance requirements and deterioration. The primary emphasis is on protection, without significant adaptation or restoration.

Rehabilitation: The modification of layout, finishes, structural capacity and services to satisfy various contemporary requirements while preserving the integrity of surviving historic fabric.

Period Restoration: The accurate recovery of the form and detailing of an earlier period in the site's evolution through the removal of later additions, stabilization of surviving period fabric and replacement of missing original elements. It is based on firm information and evidence from recording, research and analysis.

Period Reconstruction: This is the contemporary reproduction of a destroyed or poorly preserved historic structure or landscape element. The emphasis is on interpretive function.

All the buildings at the park, both new construction and existing, will meet requirements for safety and security. Every attempt will be made to provide access for the disabled without compromising the historical fabric of the resources. All buildings have been costed to include all utilities and services and to reflect winterized standards.

3.2.1 Preservation

3.2.1.1 Commanding Officer's Residence

The Commanding Officer's Residence will be preserved externally and internally, to the 1885 period. Additions made to the building over time will be allowed to remain unless they are quite obviously contemporary and inappropriate. If modifications are required to meet current code requirements, they should be done, preferably on the interior of the building, with the least amount of impact on existing historic fabric.

3.2.1.2 Officers' Quarters

Preservation will be undertaken of the exterior and interior of the building. Only the main floor of the building will be opened to the public at this time. Since public use of the second floor would require an additional exit to comply with fire regulations, this area will be used for storage for the time being. At some point in the future, the potential use of the second floor for interpretive purposes can be re-evaluated.

3.2.1.3 Sick Horse Stable

The Sick Horse Stable will be relocated to its original location north of the stockade area. In the first phase of development, the building will be relocated and stabilized. Essentially, this will involve repairing items which may threaten public safety and cleaning up and painting the structure. The second phase will include internal and external preservation.

3.2.1.4 Guard House

The Guard House will be relocated to a former location outside the stockade area, northwest of the Mess Hall. As with the Sick Horse Stable, the Guard House will be moved, initially stabilized and, in the long term, preserved.

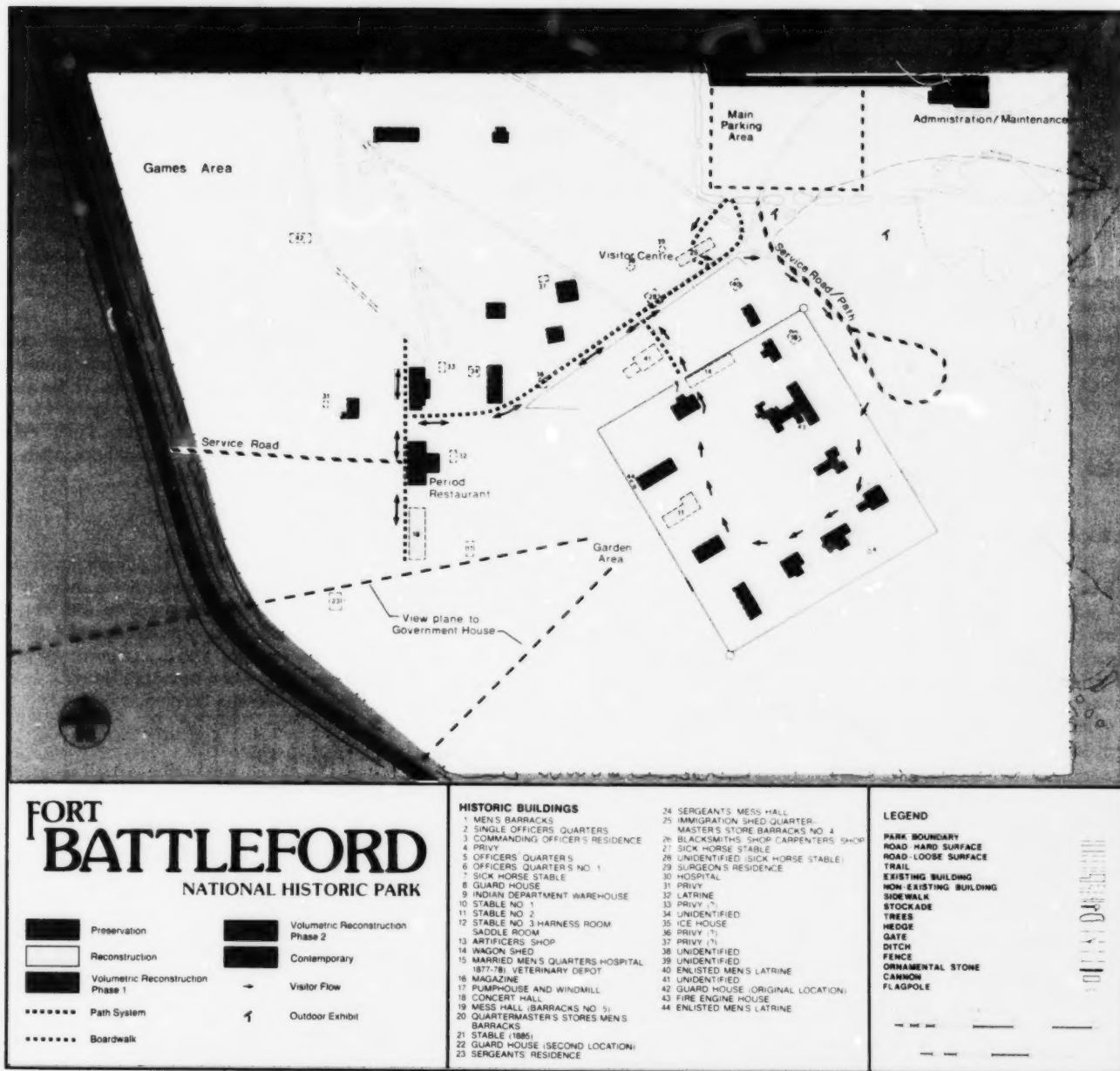


Figure 12 Summary of Plan Proposals

3.2.1.5 Mess Hall (known as Barracks #5)

This building will be restored externally and internally to the 1886 period after the completion of a building use history. A portion of the building may be furnished and interpreted as police "lounge" space, if deemed appropriate. The intention is to interpret the building's history as a Mess Hall through means of a period restaurant to be operated as a concession by a co-operative association or private enterprise. It is recognized that use of the Mess Hall for food preparation and service may entail some impact on the historic fabric. A feasibility study will be undertaken to ensure the suitability of the Mess Hall for the proposed activity and to assess the nature of the impact on the historic resource.

The remainder of the building will be used to provide sales office and storage space for a future co-operating association. Space will also be provided, if needed, for interpretation, seasonal staff and storage.

3.2.2 Reconstruction

3.2.2.1 Barracks #4 (also known as Immigration Shed/Quartermaster's Store)

It is recommended that a period reconstruction of the Barracks #4 building be undertaken to provide a Visitor Centre. The exterior of the building will be detailed to the period of construction (1884), but the interior space will be contemporary. A small reception/sales area will be provided as well as a modest office space. The remainder of the space will serve as a multi-use area for orientation, interpretation and audio-visual purposes.

A full basement will be included, which will be used for costume storage and maintenance (laundry equipment), change and lunchroom facilities for seasonal interpretation staff and space for special programmes.

3.2.2.2 Stockade

The NWMP designed the stockade to act as a defensive barricade, and also to provide a basic fencing around the original compound.

The current stockade is inaccurate in design and use of materials. As the need for recapitalization occurs, the stockade will be replaced with one of appropriate design. Recreation of an accurate stockade, with widely spaced, less formidable logs, would open up the site. Buildings in other areas of the grounds would be seen through the stockade and the inner areas of the stockade would seem less isolated and barren.

3.2.2.3 Stable

A period reconstruction is proposed for one of the stables which were originally located in the stockade area. The potential for reintroducing horses to the site, through volunteers, would provide an appropriate interpretive opportunity. The historical documentation, at this time, does not support reconstruction of a specific stable. Further research and use of comparative information will be used to assist in rebuilding a stable.

3.2.2.4 Concert Hall

The Concert Hall was a very important element in the social and economic history of Fort Battleford. It has excellent potential today for use by the community for concerts, plays, meetings and special events. It is recommended that a period reconstruction of the Concert Hall be undertaken if outside sources of funding can be found. Canadian Parks Service's contribution would be research, design and construction supervision. Potential sources for construction funds may include the Town of Battleford, Provincial Government, Western Diversification Initiative, service clubs and other interest groups.

3.2.3 Addition of Various Site Elements

There are a few smaller structures which will be reconstructed, primarily because of their contribution to the interpretive programme and/or the provision of visitor services. These include: pumphouse/windmill, powder magazine and privies (located behind the Officers' Quarters and the Mess Hall). All projects must be supported by adequate historical documentation, including archaeological investigation.

3.2.3.1 Pumphouse and Windmill

Located south and east of the Concert Hall, the pumphouse and windmill were constructed in 1898. Historical photos show the building to be a utilitarian frame building, sheathed with clapboards. It was dismantled in 1925. Water was an important consideration throughout the site's history, and this resource will be used to interpret the theme of social and economic life. Wooden water troughs will be located near the building.

3.2.3.2 Magazine (Figure 13)

A magazine was built in 1884, in the northeast corner of the fort's square. Of wood construction, covered by copper sheeting, the magazine's purpose was to store and protect ammunition. The inside will be furnished and open to visitors.

3.2.4 Landscape

A Period Landscape Plan will be prepared for Fort Battleford, as well as a Period Maintenance Manual. An evolutionary approach will be taken toward treatment of the landscape resources at Fort Battleford. Within the stockade area, projects will focus on recreating the 1885 landscape. This will primarily involve modification of maintenance practices rather than major development work. For example, stop grass cultivation and modify cutting methods throughout the park; cultivate and interpret vegetable gardens; "roughen" the area within the stockade to achieve a less "groomed" appearance.

To assist in recreating the landscape as it would have appeared in the 1885-90 period, a number of site furnishing additions will be considered. These include boardwalks, a fenced exercise yard at the Guard House, cold frames, barrels, water troughs, benches, storage bins and athletic installations such as gym rings and a chinning bar.

Changes will be made to the existing contemporary landscape. Many of the trees planted in 1948-51 will be moved or removed. Contemporary flowerbeds will be phased out and replaced with plantings more accurate to the 1885-90 period.

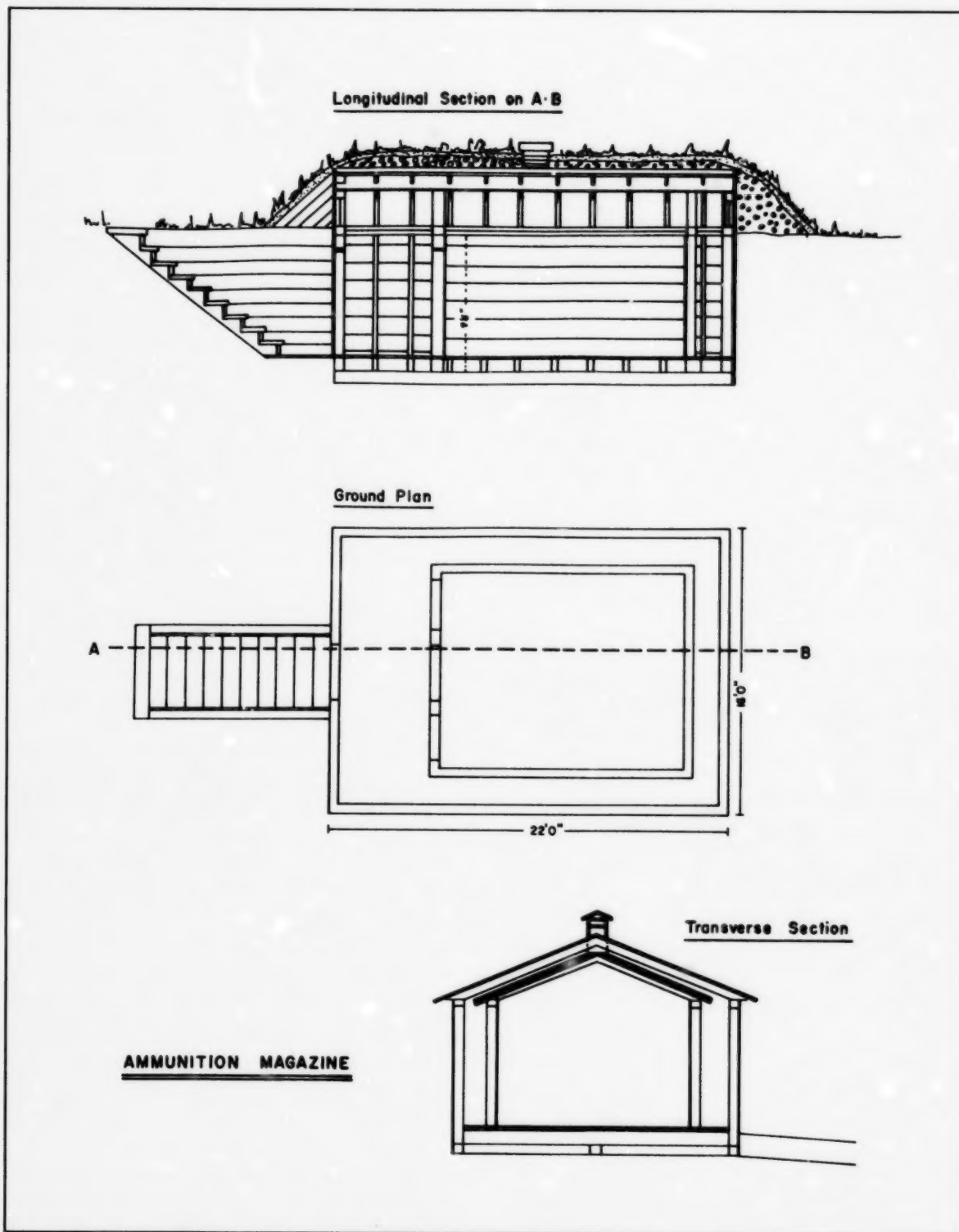


Figure 13 National Archives of Canada, R.G.11, File 3118

The new parking area will be screened from the historic area by trees.

A number of these projects will be undertaken by park staff on a phased basis. The opportunity exists for the participation of groups such as the 4-H Club or the local horticultural society to undertake some of the projects.

3.2.5 Historic Resource Internship Programme

A Restoration Internship Programme will be established at Fort Battleford to assist with building preservation and recreations, to provide practical experience for design students and apprentice craftsmen, and to forge links with the university and heritage conservation communities. Individuals trained in the first few years of restoration work will then be available as skilled workers for projects scheduled in the following years.

Discussions will be held with the University of Calgary and Alberta Culture to determine the success of their internship programme and to assess the potential of Canadian Parks Service participation with them in an existing or new venture. Alternative sources of funding, such as training and job-creation programmes, will be investigated.

3.2.6 Archaeology

Archaeology will be undertaken to support development at the park and will be primarily of a mitigative or monitoring nature. Archaeological research will also be integral to support historically accurate reconstruction and restoration.

3.2.7 Archaeological Internship Programme

An archaeology internship programme at Fort Battleford will be investigated to assist with fieldwork, to train specialized personnel, and to forge links with the university and heritage conservation communities.

3.3 Interpretation Proposals

Each of the heritage resources at Fort Battleford was evaluated to determine how they could best serve to commemorate the approved themes. It became readily apparent that certain themes such as "Law Enforcement and Territorial Administration..." are very well represented with extant on-site resources. There are also a number of available resources which are appropriate to the themes of "Victorian Building in Western Canada". There are no extant resources to commemorate native history and the life of the enlisted men.

3.3.0 Thematic Gaps:

3.3.0.1 Native History

The commemoration of Indian people at Fort Battleford is recognized as a primary theme. While the Cree people visited Fort Battleford on a regular basis historically, they did not occupy land within or adjacent to the post except on a temporary basis. In the absence of specific resources related to Indian occupation at Fort Battleford, the Canadian Parks Service is recommending the use of alternative interpretive media, such as sculpture. Three outdoor exhibits are proposed as well as an audio-visual programme dealing specifically with the histo-

ry of the area's Indians. Special events will also be held to commemorate specific activities.

Over the years, Fort Battleford National Historic Park has accumulated a substantial collection of Indian artifacts. Exhibits and displays using items from this collection will be established at Fort Battleford and other regional centres such as Cut Knife or Poundmaker's Reserve.

3.3.0.2 Social and Economic Life - Enlisted Men

A number of approaches will be used to interpret the role of the enlisted men. The Mess Hall will be furnished and interpreted, and the Guard House will include replicated sleeping and eating facilities for the guards. As for Barracks #4, it will provide an exterior view of a barracks facility and its function will be explained by means of a sign or interpretive panel. Uniformed animators and staged events, such as parades or work projects, will help to round out the visitor's impression of what it was like to be an enlisted man.

3.3.1 Visitor Experience

The experience which visitors have at Fort Battleford will affect greatly their understanding of the site and its themes. A visit should leave people with a clear understanding of the role Fort Battleford and the North West Mounted Police played in Canada's history. Of importance also is the history of the area's Indians and their connection with Fort Battleford.

The visitor will arrive at the main parking area. In order to provide an introduction to the park and the main themes to be commemorated, a series of carefully placed orientation signs will be located in the locale of the parking area and the Visitor Centre.

Interpretive signs will be used at the Visitor Centre and the outdoor exhibits to provide a chronological introduction to the site's history and themes, with particular emphasis on the history of the Indians in the area. Building identification signs will interpret the non-extant resources at Fort Battleford.

Fort Battleford's Visitor Centre will be located in the rebuilt Barracks #4 building and will serve the function of a "welcoming centre", providing a brief orientation to the park and directing the visitors to the outdoor displays. Fees, when instituted, will be collected here.

The Visitor Centre will contain a manned information/ reception desk and a tourist information display, public washrooms, theatre/multi-purpose space, storage and office areas. A scaled model of the fort, including all non-extant buildings, will be used to acquaint the visitor with the layout of the post and the variety of buildings which once existed there. The design, which should allow for exploration by touch, should assist sight-impaired visitors in their understanding of the park's layout. Small displays of important Fort Battleford artifacts will be incorporated into the design and layout of the Visitor Centre.

Short (10-15 minute) videos will be produced to complement the interpretation of the themes and reinforce what the visitor will experience through the existing historic resources. The productions will cover four major thematic areas: an 1885 overview, native history, social and economic history, and building histories. The choice of a video format allows for self-serve

use by the public and includes the option of visitors selecting and playing the programme of their choice. The format also allows for the potential inclusion of the productions in edu-kits and marketing packages. Leaving the Visitor Centre, the visitor will walk towards the front of the stockade (river side). Along the walk will be three on-site exhibits on native history leading up to the confrontation with the Canadian government in 1885. Historically there was neither an ongoing Indian presence within nor adjacent to the police post. To recreate or interpret such a presence would mislead the public. Therefore, this theme will be primarily interpreted on-site through the use of audio-visual technology and the outdoor exhibits which will deal specifically with the native history theme.

The park will not have a large, formal artifact display area; the emphasis will be on bringing the visitor out of doors, closer to the actual buildings and landscape. The planning team recommends on-site exhibits rather than just ground signs in order to attract and hold the visitor's attention. This is to ensure that the native perspective interpreted at these nodes gets the maximum attention possible. Archaeological investigations, as well as restoration activities, will be incorporated into the interpretation programme as they occur.

Passing into the stockaded area, the visitor will experience Fort Battleford at the peak of activity during the siege of 1885. This period has been chosen to recognize the single most important historical event that occurred at Fort Battleford. Additionally, it provides the greatest flexibility in the interpretation programme as there would have been many Battleford townsfolk seeking refuge within the stockade. Therefore, ordinary townsfolk are quite appropriate as animators. Wagons, tents, barrels and other paraphernalia that these temporary residents might have brought to the post will be used to provide infill. As well, there were many members of the Militia at the post at this time.

The two buildings remaining within the stockade will be used to enhance the visitor's experience and understanding of the 1885 period. The Commanding Officer's residence would be cluttered, less formal in appearance, reflecting its occupation by about 70 people. The Officers' Quarters, which housed the Commanding Officer's desk and the orderly room, will be the "nerve centre" of the fort as orders are dispatched and reports come in.

The planning team supports the rebuilding of certain buildings within the stockade area for interpretive purposes. It is very important to recreate for visitors the scale and variety of buildings that were at the fort. At this time, inadequate historical documentation exists to support accurate reconstruction of the buildings. It is therefore recommended that volumetric reconstruction be used to recreate the historic outlines of a structure and create a "ghost image" (Figure 14). These structures will be supplemented by interpretive plaques and visuals, if available.

It is recommended that the Indian warehouse and two stables within the stockade be outlined. If this method of commemoration proves successful in conveying the "sense" of the structures to the public, then the method should be used for further buildings within and outside of the stockade. These potential candidates are shown as Phase 2 on the summary map. At least one building within the stockade area, a stable, will be



Figure 14 Saskett's Harbor, New York
D. Neufeld, 1987

rebuilt for interpretation purposes. This will provide a good opportunity to reintroduce horses to Fort Battleford and also to involve volunteers at the park to a much greater extent than at present.

In addition to volumetric reconstructions of non-extant buildings and a reconstructed powder magazine and ground signage, audio tours will be used to provide supplementary interpretation for the stockade area, concentrating on the 1885 period. The incorporation of audio soundtracks of period activities at the various locations will also be investigated.

Leaving the stockade through the north gate, the visitor will experience the later period at the post. During this period, the layout of the post expanded beyond the stockade area and more closely reflected the grid pattern of the Town of Battleford. The Mess Hall, Guard House and Sick Horse Stable, which will be located outside the stockade, will enhance the themes of social and economic life and late Victorian building. The interpretive programme will also include reference to Government House and to the Mass Grave site.

3.3.2 Visitor Activity Service Plan

A Visitor Activity Service Plan has been produced for Fort Battleford National Historic Park. This service plan translates the conceptual direction of the park management plan into how and when to provide services to visitors and details the programmes and services which will be available to park visitors.

3.3.3 Curatorial and Historic Resource Conservation Proposals (Artifacts and Reproductions)

Material culture histories will be completed for each of the existing historic structures and for the stable and barracks buildings which may be rebuilt. Furnishing and costume plans will identify specific requirements for artifacts and reproductions.

The emphasis on the 1885 period within the stockade will result in some adjustments to the furnishings within the buildings. This will particularly affect the Commanding Officer's residence,

which is currently furnished to the 1876 period. Buildings outside the stockade, which will include the Guard House, Mess Hall, Sick Horse Stable and Concert Hall, will be furnished to their date of construction or greatest significance.

3.3.4 Fort Battleford Library Collection

The Fort Battleford Library Collection is currently housed in the park administration building. It consists of about 5,000 books and periodicals. The collection originates from five main sources: the R.C. Laurie Collection, the NWMP Memorial and Indian Museum, the North Battleford School Unit No. 58, the Campbell Innes Collection, and Fort Battleford National Historic Park library purchases. The number of people using the collection is quite small.

An evaluation of the library holdings was undertaken during the planning programme. The relevance of the material to the approved themes for the park was assessed. It was estimated that only 15% - 20% of the holdings were related to Fort Battleford.

Upon completion of furnishing plans for the historic buildings, there may be an opportunity to use some of the books appropriate to the time period. Should construction of the Concert Hall be undertaken, it would be historically accurate to locate a library there.

The Campbell Innes Collection, which was acquired from the Innes family in the 1960s, will remain intact. If appropriate interpretive opportunities do not exist at Fort Battleford, the Innes Collection will be returned to the Innes family or to an institution of the family's choice. The remainder of the library holdings will be redistributed in accordance with Canadian Parks Service policy.

3.3.5 Educational Kit

An educational kit for use in schools and with community groups will be considered. These kits, if approved, will be

designed to complement curriculum studies. Copies of any videos produced for the Visitor Centre will be included as part of the kits.

3.3.6 Volunteers

The park will develop a volunteer programme to provide opportunities for public participation at the park. Active recruitment and training of volunteers will be undertaken.

3.3.7 Co-operating Association

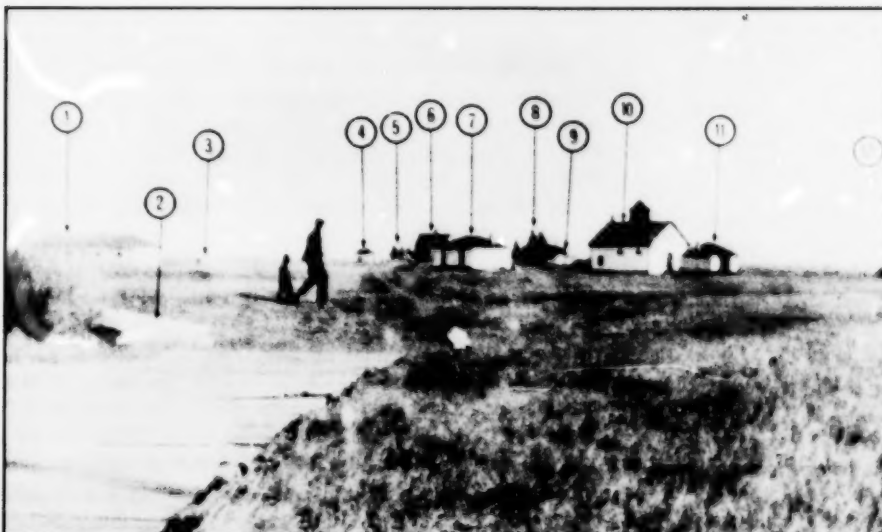
It is recognized that co-operating associations can make very positive contributions to a park. The formation of a co-operating association at Fort Battleford will be encouraged. Space will be made available for a sales outlet, office and storage.

3.4 Visitor Services Proposals

All new facilities will be designed to meet requirements for public health and safety. The new access road to the park will result in an effective pedestrian and vehicular circulation system, including parking and signs.

3.4.1 Special Needs Visitors

Fort Battleford's relatively flat terrain will facilitate the incorporation of barrier-free designs in the development of the park. Historically accurate wooden boardwalks (Figure 15) as well as groomed pathways will assist pedestrian and wheelchair travel around the park. Special vehicular passenger drop-off zones will be created to provide easier access to core facilities by the infirm or elderly. Emphasis will be placed on designing models, maps and exhibits which may be experienced through touch as well as sight. Interpretive media (brochures, exhibits, etc.) will be designed to be adaptable for physically challenged visitors (e.g. large print versions, braille text). Audio tour presen-



LEGEND

1. Immigration Shed
2. Boardwalk
3. Magazine
4. Fire Engine Shed
5. Trees
6. C.O.'s Residence
7. Blacksmith's Shop
8. Trees
9. Officers' Quarters
10. Sick Horse Stable
11. Carpenter's House
12. Unidentified

Figure 15 Canadian Parks Service Collection, 1920s

tations providing general orientation and information on specific themes will be useful to the visually impaired park visitor and visitors speaking other than official languages (e.g. German, Cree).

3.4.2 Supplementary Washroom Facilities

Latrine buildings will be reconstructed behind the Mess Hall and the Officers' Quarters. Contemporary washroom facilities will be housed within these external reconstructions.

3.4.3 Period Restaurant

The Mess Hall (Barracks #5) will be restored and furnished to the 1886 period. It is proposed that it be used to house a period restaurant. Prior to making final recommendations on the building's use, a feasibility study will examine use of the building, effects on the historic fabric of the building, and also determine the viability of a restaurant operation.

3.4.4 Parking Facilities

Two parking areas are proposed: one to the north of the proposed Visitor Centre and a staff area near the Administration Building. They will be screened and sited so as to respect the historic environment of the fort.

An analysis of use of the existing parking area, coupled with the projected visitation at the completion of the plan (about 60,000), was used to determine the required load capacity. The parking area will cover about 1960 square metres and will be able to accommodate about 45 cars plus 15 large scale vehicles (buses, R.V.'s, campers). Should overflow parking be required for special events, the flat grassed area adjacent to the parking lot may be used.

The proposed restaurant facility will require vehicular access for deliveries. Consideration must also be given to allowing drop-off privileges for those who are physically disabled. To meet these needs, a modest service lane will be provided along the former (1950s) entrance route to the park. The lane will be used for these authorized purposes only.

The provision of a service lane is not desirable but it is unrealistic to expect an enterprise such as a restaurant to operate without service access. Deliveries will be restricted to hours outside of normal park operations.

The planning team is conscious of this contemporary use in the historic landscape, but recommends this option as the least intrusive solution. The road depressions already exist from earlier use. The location of this service lane will not intrude on the view plane between Government House and the park.

A second access route will be provided from the Visitor Centre to the stockade entrance. The pathway, which will be designed to a 2.5 metre width, will accommodate both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

3.5 Regional Integration Proposals

3.5.1 Access Road

Access to the park will be relocated to the northern boundary. Parking areas and on-site circulation will be redesigned accordingly.

3.5.2 Shared Facilities

Every effort will be made to complement facilities and recreational activities in the region. The Superintendent will encourage the use of the games field area by local community groups as well as for other thematically-related recreational activities (e.g. snowshoeing, cross-country racing, soccer, cricket). The framework for these activities will be outlined in the Visitor Activity Service Plan.

3.5.3 Marketing and Special Events

Fort Battleford will play a strong and active role in tourism development in the Battlefords area and along the Yellowhead Route. A marketing strategy will be developed for Fort Battleford.

Discussions will be initiated with other historic sites and museums, special interest groups and private businesses to determine the potential for linkages for thematically-related special events and activities.

3.6 Park Administration

The management plan proposes a number of physical changes to the park which will have an impact on its operation. A complete reorientation of the site, new facilities for administration and maintenance, and greater emphasis on period landscaping and maintenance techniques will result in some realignment of duties for park personnel.

3.6.1 Administration Building

The park administrative function will be located in a new facility in the northeast quadrant of the historic park. The building will be located in the vicinity of the maintenance structure with the precise location to be determined during the design stage.

3.6.2 Maintenance and Storage Facilities

A modest maintenance facility will be constructed in the northeast quadrant of the park. It will be designed to blend with the landscape, particularly as it will also be viewed from across the river. The design should make reference to the historical buildings in both material and colouration. The building will contain sufficient storage capacity for equipment and materials, and also include adequate workshop space to provide ongoing maintenance to the historic resources, site landscape and equipment.



4.0 MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Parks Service will prepare a comprehensive implementation strategy to ensure that the provisions of this plan are carried out in a systematic and timely fashion.

Responsibility for the preparation of this strategy will rest with the park Superintendent, Fort Battleford National Historic Park, with the co-operation of the various disciplines represented on the management planning team.

The implementation of many provisions in this management

plan are dependent on the availability of financial resources and an adequate base of research. Approval of this plan does not constitute automatic approval of funding for implementation. Standard federal government financial management requirements, funding procedure approvals, and the directives of central agencies responsible for government spending and accountability will be adhered to at all stages of plan implementation.

The following framework will guide the preparation of the implementation strategy for the park.

MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

PLAN PROVISIONS	PHASE 1 (YEAR 1-5)	PHASE 2 (YEAR 6-10)
1. HISTORICAL RESEARCH • Building structural histories • Material culture histories • (furnishing plans, costumes) • Archaeological research and monitoring	X X X	 X
2. VISITOR SERVICES • Visitor Centre • Canadian Parks Service signage	X X	
3. PARK ADMINISTRATION • Administration building • Access road and parking • Maintenance building	X X X	
4. INTERPRETATION • Brochure package - General history - Marketing - Native history - Building History • Self-guided tour brochure (sale item) • Site model • Audio visual production 1885 overview - Native history - Social and Economic history - Building History • On-site exhibits for native history • Building identification signs	 X X X X X	

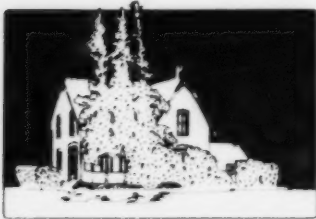
MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK (CONT'D)

PLAN PROVISIONS	PHASE 1 (YEAR 1-5)	PHASE 2 (YEAR 6-10)
• Orientation signs • Volumetric reconstruction • Stables (within stockade) • Indian warehouse • Other buildings on-site • Furnishing of buildings and grounds • Costumes • Audio-tours • Off-Site Interpretation • Extension package	- X - X - X - X - X - X	- X - X - X - X
5. HISTORIC RESOURCE CONSERVATION		
• Extant Resources • Commanding Officer's Residence • Officers' Quarters • Sick Horse Stable • Guard House • Stockade • Mess Hall • Non-Extant Resources		
• Reconstruction • Pumphouse/windmill • Powder magazine • Latrines • Concert hall (outside funding) • Stable • Landscape • Period landscape • Contemporary landscaping • Pathways and boardwalks	- X	
6. REGIONAL INTEGRATION		
• Regional marketing package* with outside funding partners • Billboards		- X



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Bob Stewart was responsible for the map preparation and graphic design. Diane Frechette ably undertook all the word-processing.

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